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## **CITY COUNCIL SALARY REDUCTION**

(San José, CA) –As the City of San Jose is facing a \$73 million deficit this year, one response is reducing salary expenses. On Tuesday June 9, 2009, Mayor and City Councilmembers voted to reduce their salaries by 3.75% . Councilmember Kansen Chu believes that as City Councilmember, he should lead by example, therefore he will take a voluntary cut of 4% and additional \$150 cut on his car allowance for the next year. “These are difficult times for everyone, but as an elected official I am in a unique position to send a message and lead by example,” he said. “Because of the voluntary cuts, I also have to tighten my belt, so to speak, but also feel that it sends an important message to the San Jose residents and City employees.”

The City of San Jose is faced with \$73 million deficit as the local economy is faced with recession and approximately 11% unemployment. Salary Setting Commission which is a voluntary resident body commission reviews the Mayor and Council Salaries and makes its proposals to the Council for approval. Their recommendations were to freeze all wages, and car allowances for the next two years. City Council and the Mayor voted overwhelmingly to reduce their pay for an additional 3.75% and keep the reduction of car allowance on a voluntary basis.

Every two years the Salary Setting Commission presents their proposals before the City Council for their salary and allowance reviews. In May of 2007, the City Council voted to remove the salary setting from the City Council and to pursuit a charter change to have an independent body to control the process. “I believe that we should take the salary setting process out of the political process as the Council had voted for back in 2007, said Councilmember Chu. “Until then, this will remain a contentious and purely political process as it has in the past.”

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